GOVERNMENTOF ANDHRA PRADESH

A B S T R A C T

Agriculture & Cooperation Department – V & E cases – Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District - Allegations of failure in supervision and lack of devotion noticed in the works of Soil Conservation in Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District and misuse & misappropriation of RVP funds - Disciplinary action initiated under A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980 – Imposition of the penalty of "Withholding of 4% of Pension permanently, besides recovery of Rs.48,501.25 paisa from his retirement benefits", under A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980 – Orders – Issued.

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AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.13 **Dated : 08.03.2022**

Read the following:

1. From the Director General (Vig. & Entt.) & Ex-Officio Principal Secretary to Government, GAD (V&E) Department, A.P., Hyderabad, Letter C.No.1077/V&E/NR.2/2003 (Vigilance Report No.127), dt.18.11.2004.
2. G.O.Rt.No.1200, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.14.11.2005.
3. Explanation dt.Nil of Sri I.Ramana Rao, Asst. Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.),RVP Arakuvalley, Visakhaptnam District.
4. G.O.Rt.No. 786, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.02.07.2009.
5. Report dt.Nil submitted by Sri D.Rushendranath, Addl.Director of Agriculture-I, O/o Commissioner & Director of Ariculture, A.P. and Inquiry Authority.
6. Govt. Memo. No. 15612/Vig.I/1/2004-16, A&C (Vig.I) Dept., dt. 03.07.2010.
7. Memo.No. Vig.II(5)/396/04, dt. 19.07.2010 of the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P. Hyderabad.
8. Explanation dt.05.08.2010 of Sri I.Ramana Rao, Asst. Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District.
9. Govt.Memo.No.15612/Vig.I/2004, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.10.02.2016.
10. Explanation dt. 31.05.2016 of Sri I.Ramana Rao, Asst. Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District.
11. Government Letter No. AGC01- AGRI/89/2020-2, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt. 23.12.2021.
12. From the Joint Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada, Letter. No. 16/DC&C/2022, dt. 02.02.2022.

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O R D E R:

In the reference 1st read above, the Vigilance & Enforcement Dept. has submitted a report regarding misuse & misappropriation of RVP Funds in Soil Conservation Works in Arakuvalley, Vishakaptnam District and requested to recover the misappropriated amount and also to initiate disciplinary action for major penalty against the concerned.

2. Based on the above, the Government have initiated disciplinary action against Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District, under the provisions of A.P.Revised Pension Rules,1980 and also issued Articles of Charge against him, in the reference 2nd read above, with a direction to submit his Written Statement of Defense (WSD), duly admitting/denying the Charges.

3. In the reference 3rd read above, the Charged Officer Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District, has submitted his Written Statement of Defense (WSD) duly denying the Charges framed against him and requesting to drop further action. Since the Written Statement of Defense (WSD) is far from convincing, the Government have appointed Sri D. Rushendranath, Addl. Director of Agriculture–I, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, as the Inquiry Authority, in the reference 4th read above, to inquire into the Articles of Charge issued against the Charged Officer Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District and also appointed Sri P.Atma Ramulu, Deputy Director of Agriculture (N.C.Cell), O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, as the Presenting Officer, to present the case before the Inquiry Authority.

(P.T.O)

4. In the reference 5th read above, Sri D.Rushendranath, Addl. Director of Agriculture–I, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad & Inquiry Authority has submitted his report stating that the Articles of Charge issued against Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District, are held proved.

5. As per the instructions of the Government issued in the reference 6th read above, the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur has communicated a copy of the Inquiry Report to Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District, in the reference 7th read above, calling for his explanation, if any, and in the reference 8th read above, the Charged Officer has submitted his explanation duly denying the charges framed against him and requesting to drop further action in the matter.

6. The Government have examined the case, in consultation with the advisory departments, and taken a provisional decision to impose the penalty of "Withholding of 4% of Pension permanently, besides recovery of Rs.48,501.25 paisa from his retirement benefits" against the Charged Officer Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District, under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

7. Accordingly, the Government have issued a Notice to the Charged Officer, Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District, in the reference 9th read above, with a direction to show-cause as to why the above said penalty of "Withholding of 4% of Pension permanently, besides recovery of Rs.48,501.25 paisa from his retirement benefits" should not be imposed against him for the Articles of Charge issued against him are held proved and in the reference 10th read above the Charged Officer has submitted his representation requesting to drop further action in the matter.

8. The Government have not considered the representation of the Charged Officer Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District since he has not produced any new material or evidence that has the effect of changing nature of the case and hence decided to impose the above said penalty of "Withholding of 4% of Pension Permanently, besides recovery of Rs.48,501.25 paisa from his retirement benefits" against him.

9. Accordingly, as per Regulation 17 of APPSC Regulations, 1963, the Government have requested the Secretary, A.P.Public Service Commission Vijayawada, in the reference 11th read above, to place the above proposed penalty of "Withholding of 4% of Pension Permanently, besides recovery of Rs.48,501.25 paisa from his retirement benefits" against the Charged Officer Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District, and obtain its concurrence and communicate the same to this Department for further action in the matter.

10. In the reference 12th read above, the Joint Secretary, A.P.Public Service Commission Vijayawada, has stated that the Commission agrees with the proposals of the Government to impose the penalty of "Withholding of 4% of Pension permanently, besides recovery of Rs.48,501.25 paisa from his retirement benefits" against Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District and advised accordingly.

11. The Government, after careful examination of the matter, hereby, impose the penalty of "Withholding of 4% of Pension permanently, besides recovery of Rs.48,501.25 paisa from his retirement benefits" against the Charged Officer Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP, Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District, under rule-9 A.P.Revised Pension Rules,1980, for the Articles of Charge issued against him are held proved.

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12. The Commissoner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

POONAM MALAKONDAIAH
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:
Sri I.Ramana Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture (SC) (Retd.), RVP,
Arakuvalley, Visakhapatnam District,
(through the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.)
The Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.

Copy to:
The Prl. Accountant General, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Vijayawada.
The District Treasury officer, Visakhapatnam.
The Joint Director of Agriculture, Visakhapatnam.
The P.S. to Secretary, A.P.P.S.C., Vijayawada.
The P.S. to A.P.Vigilance Commissioner, APVC,
Block-5, First Floor, AP Secretariat Buildings, Amaravati at Velagapudi.
Sf/Sc

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER